

The average number of prisoners confined in the territorial penitentiary varies from about 130 to 150. To keep these men the average cost to the territory is no less than \$60,000 a year. They could be boarded at the Palace hotel, in San Francisco, at a less expense to the territory.

The average term of a life convict in Yuma is said to be about three years. A Chinaman sentenced for life to the institution for murder, said to a visitor a few days ago: "Bime by I get three hundred dollars, then I catch him pardon." It is barely possible that he unwittingly represented the true condition of affairs in prison management.

The Florence Tribune is persistent in its inquiry as to the disposition made of the \$30,000 appropriated by the legislature for a World's fair exhibit. We think in justice to the committee themselves as well as to the taxpayers of the territory that a statement should be made.

It is said that the entire annual production of gold is now consumed in the arts and dentistry, that there is no longer any new gold for money, and if not already, we shall soon be encroaching on the accumulated stocks of gold money for industrial purposes, which makes it plain as the noonday sun that it will not do to discard silver as money metal. Silver is the coin that the people most continue to cling to in their pockets and the right to do so must never be denied them. Evil consequences must flow from any successful attempt of the nabobs of the old world or the new to degrade or demote silver and make gold the only metal used for money.—E.

We publish elsewhere a series of resolutions passed and adopted at a public meeting in the city of Tombstone over the difficulties existing in the board of supervisors of Cochise county. The trouble complained of originated in what may be termed a sharp democratic trick. Scott White, the present democratic sheriff, was, at the time of his election, a supervisor of the county. Instead of qualifying as sheriff he continued for some time to sit as a supervisor, and by the injudicious action of himself and others, as set forth in the resolutions, involved the county in trouble and expensive legislation. We regret this on the part of Mr. White, who we had every reason to believe a good citizen and competent officer, but he used his calling when he set himself forward to ignore the wishes and the will of the voters and taxpayers of his county. Fortunately for the county Hon. J. P. Allister, the superior against whom the democratic combination was directed, was not inclined to be thus summarily deprived of his rights. He had been elected supervisor by the people and he did not propose to be squeezed, bluffed or frozen out. The grand jury investigated the matter and censured the combination and refused to recognize the action of the "combination" board. One thing is sure and that is Scott White has politically killed himself before the people of Cochise county, and we may here add that Supervisor Perkins will keep him close company. It pays at all times to be just and fair in politics as well as business.

THE COST OF MINING SILVER.

A great many partial statements have been made as to the relative cost of producing gold and silver since the San Francisco Call. If that relative cost could be correctly ascertained and made permanent the true ratio between the two metals would thereby be found. Our law presumes that sixteen ounces of silver can be produced at the cost of producing one ounce of gold. This relation may hold good one year or period of years, but in a long course of time there will be wide variations. It is known that for some years after the discovery of gold in California and Australia the cost of producing gold fell below that ratio. In other words, for several years it cost less to produce sixteen ounces of silver than to produce one ounce of gold. From 1849 to 1873, when the silver dollar was dropped from the list of American coins, the cost of producing gold was less than the cost of producing silver in the legal ratio. Consequently no silver coin of full legal weight was minted. For a long period of years up to the time when the coining of silver dollars was stopped by law, their coinage had been stopped by the high price of silver bullion. The relative amount of silver and gold produced in the last ten years indicates that silver is now being produced at less cost, on the sixteen-to-one ratio, than gold. But it does not follow that this condition will be permanent. The gold advocates have attempted to show that silver can be produced at less than its present gold value—less than about sixty cents an ounce. These estimates are based on the output of some few productive mines, where work is being done on the most favorable conditions. But all silver mines have their periods of non-productiveness. No account is taken in these estimates of the cost of putting the mines in working order. The cost of mining and milling over a body of rich material has been located is the basis of these estimates. Still, it is possible that the true ratio of silver to gold is higher than sixteen to one. It may be eighteen, or even twenty. The true ratio must be found by striking an average through a long series of years. The silver-producers can afford to take the chances of ratio in the absence of legislation depriving silver of any of its important functions.

THE EXTRA SESSION.

What will the republicans do in the coming congress? That question has been asked so often since Mr. Cleveland issued his proclamation convening congress in extra session on August 7, but the unanimity of those who have expressed an opinion on the subject seems to make it fair that they voice the sentiments of at least three-fourths of the republicans in the senate and house, and their opinions may be summed up about thusly: The democrats having a majority in both houses and seats, there exists no reason for the promulgation of a republican program. That is the business of the majority. When that program is presented the republicans, with few exceptions, may be counted upon to lay aside all desire to stand up for so much of it as may be for the benefit of the country. In short, if Mr. Cleveland's program be a patriotic one it will be supported by the republicans, who have in every public crisis since the party was represented in congress proven themselves to be patriots and patrians afterwards. Nobody need worry about the position of the republicans in congress; they will be found voting for the right every time.

The public and even many of the leading democrats are ignorant of the republicans' coming program. He undoubtedly wishes the Sherman law repealed, but his substitute for that measure has not yet been announced. That it will in some way provide for silver already owned by the government, both notes and bullion, as well as for the future of silver as a money metal, is devoutly to be wished. It is not necessary for a man to be a skilled financier in order for him to see the necessity for some substitute. The Sherman law repealed all other silver laws, and it unconditionally repeal it would wipe out all recognition of silver money, to put the country upon a single gold standard and to turn the silver money now owned by the government into just so many ounces of silver bullion; and few even among the most extreme advocates of a gold standard believe that such a radical change could be so suddenly made without wholesale disaster, and it is not believed that it will be possible to accomplish the unworkable repeal of the Sherman law, while the belief is general that it can be easily repealed if a reasonable and sensible substitute therefor is presented. Mr. Cleveland has a grand opportunity to prove himself a patriotic president and his message to congress, which will be generally accepted as the official program of his party, will show to what extent he takes advantage of it.

While there are a few men who profess to believe that the extra session will be a short one, the great majority believe that it will run into the regular session and that the regular session will be one of the longest ever held. It is already certain that it is going to be a fighting session, but the fighting is going to be among the democrats. The first fight will be on the proposed closure rule, which will be antagonized by what are known as the silver democrats, and the republicans may conclude to take a hand in it. Then there will be a fight over the important house chairmanships, and further, if the hand writing on the wall has been read aright, Springer, Holman and Bland are all slated to be turned down. Here is where the fun will commence.

MEXICAN CONCESSIONS.

Mexico is the land of concessions. Such things have been granted almost without let or hindrance by President Diaz. To his credit, however, it must be said that these concessions were largely given as premiums to the enterprise for the purpose of opening up and developing the country. Under date of June 19, 1893, the following rules were issued which will hereafter govern all concessions made in that country: First—The duration of the franchises and concessions will be graduated according to the importance of the industry, but in no case will it exceed ten years. Second—The minimum of the capital to be invested in the industry must be \$250,000. Third—This capital will be exempt for ten years from all federal taxation. Fourth—The concessionaries can import, once only, free of duties, the machinery, apparatus, tools, construction materials and other elements necessary for the factories and buildings. Fifth—The concessionaries must guarantee their compliance with the contracts by making deposits in bonds of the public debt. Sixth—The concessionaries must pay the costs of the stamps on the contracts.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

Some Rates Made—Some of the Charges Quite Important.

The board of equalization yesterday afternoon made changes in property valuations as follows: Ramon Sota, raised on live stock from 350 to 570 head—\$245 to \$390. A. J. Stockton, raised on improvements from \$200 to \$300. Salero Live Stock company, raised on live stock from 700 to 1250 head—\$490 to \$820. Shady & Martinez, raised on live stock from 400 to 500 head—\$290 to \$320. Leonardo Sautiqui, reduced on property from \$70 to \$200. Santa Rita Land and Cattle company, from 300 to 600 head—\$210 to \$420. On improvements on Potero ranch from \$100 to \$130. Alcaro Torres, raised on personal property from nothing to \$50.

A Ruinous Loss.

Why is that people in general are so prone to disregard loss of strength, clearly perceptible in bodily shrinkage, failure of appetite, broken rest? Incomprehensible but true. Super carelessness, an overweening confidence in the power of nature to recuperate—these are the susceptible reasons. One of the most observable signs of danger thrown by distressed nature is wasting strength. An efficient tonic is the best safeguard against impending peril. Digestion, the invigorator which modern science has developed and experience approved is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, and it occupies the first place. This great tonic, as a regular action of the bowels and tranquil condition of the nerves, both insured by its use, co-operate in the complete restoration of the vigor. The Bitters remedies liver and kidney trouble and malaria.

MINING MATTERS.

Charles Bent has been put in full charge of the mining properties in the Golden Star group, owned by Chicago capitalists. At present but one mining contract on the group is under way. Others may be set on foot. The work of setting up the new Crawford gold mill, at Arivaca, is being pushed day and night. The mill will probably be used for custom work also. It is said that charges will not be over \$6 a ton. The work of this mill will be watched by scores of mining men, who hope to see it fulfil what is promised for it. Should it work out the gold in ore carrying sulphur and pyrites without roasting, it may more will be wanted. The agent, now in Tucson, will see the mill well under way. The Foran custom mill is about starting up. This will probably do much for that country for the present. Charges will be only \$8 per ton, which is below former charges. Mr. Sexton, a mining man there, will locate 250 tons of gold rock for the first run. Little prospecting is being done at present.

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